(9) Foreign equity participation has been allowed upto 100%, through automatic route, in the textile sector with certain exceptions.

(10) To prepare and sensitise our textile and garment industry to conform to the ecological requirements of importing countries by providing facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories.

(11) The National Textile Policy — 2000 (NT×P-2000) has been announced to provide the policy direction for orderly and sustained development and growth of textile industry in a harmonious way and to give a thrust to textile exports.

Plan to Increase export of textile and apparel

1184. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that textile exports play a crucial role in the overall exports from India;

(b) the Government plans to increase the textile and apparel exports from US$ 11 billion today to US$ 50 billion by the year 2010; and

(c) if so, what steps is the Government taking to achieve this target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir,

(c) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to strengthen the textile industry and to achieve export targets. Some of the important initiatives are as under:—

(1) The Government has de-reserved the women segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector.

(2) A provision of Rs.10 crores has been earmarked in the Budget 2001-02 for creating clusters of excellence, *i.e.*, apparel parks for production and export of garments. Besides, a provision of Rs.15 crores has also been made for scheme for

improvement of infrastructure facilities at major textile production centres.

(3) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade. Inter Ministerial Committee to resolve the issues pertaining to assistance under TUFS has been constituted.

(4) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%.

(5) Technology Mission for Cotton has been launched for initiating focussed steps for boosting production, productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products.

(6) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower rquirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(7) The import of a large number of germent machinery has been allowed under concessional custom duty of 5%.

(8) With a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought to 5%.

(9) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route, in the textile sector with certain exceptions.

(10) To prepare and sensitise our textile and garment industry to conform to the ecological requirements of importing countries by providing facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories.

(11) The National Textile Policy 2000 has recently been announced to provide the policy direction for orderly and sustained development and growth of the textile industry in a harmonious way and to give a thrust to textile exports.